

Please amend claims 23, 27 and 28 as follows.

23. (Amended) A method of configuring a slot machine to a reel spinning game conducted with the machine, the method comprising:

providing a physical symbol-bearing reel including an encoder for indicating a position of said reel;

providing a reel controller for performing low-level operations related to movement of said reel;

providing a central processing unit for issuing high-level commands to said reel controller related to the movement of said reel; [and]

sending a command from said central processing unit to said reel controller to determine a type of said encoder;

determining the type of said encoder with said reel controller;

sending configuration data from said central processing unit to said reel controller to configure said reel controller to the reel spinning game; and

using said reel controller to compare the determined type of said encoder with said configuration data.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 23 [26], further including reporting an error back to said central processing unit if the determined type of said encoder conflicts with said configuration data.

28. (Amended) [The method of claim 25, wherein the step of determining the type of said encoder includes] A method of configuring a slot machine to a reel spinning game conducted with the machine, the method comprising: